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Naturally, the floristics and plant ecology of the area receive the major portion of attention. S. B. PARISH sketches the history of its botanical exploration, from a botanical paper by Dr. C. C. PARRY in Emory's Report of the Survey of the boundary between the United States and Mexico, made in 1856. He presents an annotated list of indigenous and introduced species, the former including 8 trees, 23 shrubs, 10 suffrutescent plants, 30 perennial herbs, and 51 annuals. Only 7 species are endemic. A grouping is made into formations and associations, the halophytic and xerophytic naturally being the most prominent. Detailed sketches of some of the outskirts of the area have already appeared.[2] This analysis of the composition of the vegetation is continued in MACDOUGAL's inquiry into its genesis, as shown by its re-establishment upon areas sterilized by submergence. He considers both the re-occupation of the strand left bare by the receding lake and that of sterilized islands emerging from the lowering waters. The changes as the aridity of the strand increases, the agencies effective in carrying seeds, and the invasion of new species are among the topics receiving attention, while a detailed history is given of various portions of the strands emerging from the waters. Among the pioneer forms, species of *Atriplex*, *Heliotropium*, *Sesuvium*, *Pluchea*, *Distichlis*, and *Suaeda*, together with *Prosopis pubescens*, *P. glaudulosa*, and *Salix nigra*, are found, but their abundance and survival differ at different points along the shore, and this could be to some extent related to the slope and character of the soil. The fact that 4 out of 60 species found upon the strand showed modifications of structure not observed elsewhere suggests the possibility that the changing conditions are resulting in the production of new species, and that similar series of changes in the past have been similarly productive.

The exactness of the present report and the abundance of its data also combine to make it a most valuable record for the future study of these as well as of other problems which may arise with the continual subsidence of the sea and the further development of the surrounding vegetation.—GEO. D. FULLER.

MINOR NOTICES

Flora of the Dutch West Indian Islands.—BOLDINGH[3] has published a second volume under the foregoing title, which deals with the islands of Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire. The present volume is divided into three parts, first Systematical, second Historical, and third Phytogeographical. The last part is subdivided into the following sections: (A) Orological, Geological, and Meteorological, (B) Distribution of the wild plants enumerated in the first part, (C) The vegetation of Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire. To this is added an alphabetical index to vernacular and their corresponding scientific names. The three islands represent an area of 860 square kilometers, or about 332 square miles, and possess a flora of 394 species distributed among 80 families from Polypodiaceae to Compositae. Those families predominating, as shown by the number of species recorded, are Leguminosae (41), Gramineae (35), Convovulaceae (25), Euphorbiaceae (24), Cyperaceae (23), and Compositae (20). One new species is described in each of the following genera: *Schizachyrium*, *Ficus*, *Pisonia*, *Kallstroemia*, *Bursera*, *Phyllanthus*, *Croton*, *Maytenus*, *Condalea*, *Casearia*, and *Melampodium*.—J. M. GREENMAN.

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[2] PARISH, S. B., Sketches of the Colorado Desert. Plant World **17**:122–130. 1914.

[3] BOLDINGH, I., The flora of the Dutch West Indian Islands. Second Volume. Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire. 8vo. xiv+197. *pls. 9. map 1.* Leyden: E. J. Brill. 1914.

Applied botany.—KRAEMER[4] has accomplished a very laborious task for the benefit of students in technical schools, pharmaceutical and medical colleges, food analysists, etc. Although emphasizing the technical side of plants, he has included a basis of morphology and physiology, which should put the student, interested chiefly in the commercial aspect of plants, in touch with the scientific aspect. The seven chapters include the following subjects: Principal groups of plants, under which is given an outline of the plant kingdom; Cell contents and forms of cells; Outer and inner morphology of the higher plants; Botanical nomenclature, which is also a glossary of technical terms; Classification of angiosperms yielding economic products; Classification of medicinal plants; and Microscopic technique of reagents.

The book is a thesaurus of information, and as a book of reference should be of great service to botanists in general.—J.M.C.

North American flora.—The first part of volume 34 presents 50 genera of the Helenieae, all but 2 of them by RYDBERG.[5] The new genera proposed are *Nesothamnus* (type species, *Perityle incana*), *Leptopharynx* (type species, *Perityle Parryi*), *Pappothrix* (type species, *Laphamia rupestris*), *Amauriopsis* (type species, *Amauria dissecta*), *Cephalobembix* (type species, *Schkuhria neomexicana*), *Trichymenia* (type species, *Hymenothrix Wrightii*). New species are described also in *Venegazia*, *Psilostrophe* (3), *Baileya* (3), *Perityle* (5), *Laphamia* (2), *Loxothysanus*, *Bahia* (2), *Hulsea* (3), *Tetracarpum* (2), *Hymenopappus* (5), *Othake* (2), *Rigiopappus*, and *Chaenactis* (3).—J. M. C.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Toxic effects.—The observation that small traces of salicylic acid (o-oxybenzoic acid) in the presence of comparatively large quantitites of p-oxybenzoic acid have a deleterious effect on the growth of *Penicillium*, while both p-oxybenzoic and m-oxybenzoic acids serve as food, has led BOESEKEN and

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[4] KRAEMER, HENRY, Applied and economic botany. 8vo. vi+806. *figs. 424.* Philadelphia (145 N. 10th St.): Published by the author. 1914. $5.00.

[5] North American Flora **34**: part 1. pp. 80. Carduaceae (Helenieae), by P. A. RYDBERG; *Baeria* and *Lasthenia*, by H. M. HALL. New York Botanical Garden, 1914.